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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/705,035	11/02/2000	Haruo Oba	112857-265	6839
29175	7590	03/18/2003	EXAMINER HARVEY, MINSUN OH	
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD, LLC P. O. BOX 1135 CHICAGO, IL 60690-1135			ART UNIT 2644	PAPER NUMBER 7
DATE MAILED: 03/18/2003				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. <b>09/705,035</b>	Applicant(s) <b>OBA et al</b>
	Examiner <b>MINSUN HARVEY</b>	Art Unit <b>2644</b>

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE three MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2a)  This action is FINAL.      2b)  This action is non-final.
- 3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4)  Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6)  Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8)  Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11)  The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a)  approved b)  disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13)  Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All b)  Some\* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14)  Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).  
a)  The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15)  Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1 to 4 and 9 to 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gersheneld.

Gersheneld discloses a portable listening apparatus which is comprised of means for generating a modulated signal modulated in a band in which a signal is transferred by using a human body (16, 29 and 50); a first electrode for outputting the generated audio modulated signal (18 and 20); a second electrode for receiving a modulated signal transferred through the first electrode and a human body (24 and 26); means for demodulating the modulated signal received by the second electrode (52); means for generating sound according to the demodulated signal (output of 52); and means for storing individual authentication data (col. 6, lines 44 to 49). Gersheneld does not disclose that the system is explicitly for audio listening apparatus. However, since Gersheneld has disclosed that the system relates generally to the use of small currents externally induced in people by electrostatic field coupling, and more particularly, to systems (such as pagers, telephones, computer terminals, and set forth) that can be used for wireless communication among proximate devices (col. 1, lines 9 to 26), it would have been obvious to use Gersheneld's system for audio listening apparatus as claimed because audio listening apparatus is well known portable device for transmitting signals to its user.

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3. Claims 5 to 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gersheneld in view of Nakagawa.

Gersheneld does not disclose that the transmission further comprises playback means for playing back an audio signal to be modulated and control means for controlling the playback means and recording means for recording an audio signal in a predetermined form.

Nakagawa discloses an audio listening apparatus which is comprised of playback means for playing back an audio signal; control means for controlling the playback means and recording means for recording an audio signal in a predetermined form (col. 2, lines 25 to 53). Since Nakagawa has disclosed an audio listening apparatus with playback means, control means and recording means, it would have been obvious to combine Nakagawa's teaching with Gersheneld because it would have been obvious for one in the skilled in the art to substitute Nakagawa's audio device with Gersheneld's teaching to have an audio reproducing apparatus with playback means, control means and means for recording as claimed.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to **Minsun Oh Harvey** whose telephone number is (703) 308-6741.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Bill Isen**, can be reached at (703) 305-4386.

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

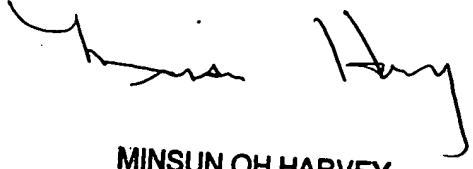
Washington, D.C. 20231

**Or faxed to:**

**(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)**

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive,  
Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist)

Any inquiry of general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding  
should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone  
number is (703) 306-0377.

  
**MINSUN OH HARVEY**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**